

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELFAS 00158 271346Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 SCCT-01 USSS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /046 W

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R 271204Z APR 76

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1273

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 158

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UK, EI

SUBJECT: TROUBLES DEATH TOLL 1501

1. DEATH OF CATHOLIC BAR OWNER IN EXPLOSION CAR BOMB  
VILLAGE OF HILLTOWN APRIL 25 BROUGHT VIOLENT DEATH  
TOLL SINCE 1969 TO 1501. IN 1969 THIRTEEN PEOPLE DIED.  
TOTAL 1976 SO FAR IS 107, HIGHEST RATE ANY YEAR EXCEPT  
FOR 1972 WHEN THERE RECORD RATE SECTARIAN KILLINGS.

2. ACCORDING CAREFUL ANALYSIS DEATHS THIS YEAR IN  
IRISH TIMES APRIL 22 PREPARED FROM RESTRICTED MATERIAL  
FROM SECURITY SOURCES 58 KILLED BY REPUBLICANS, 44  
KILLED BY LOYALISTS. IN FOLLOWING BREAKDOWN "ACCIDENTS  
AND ERRORS" INCLUDE "OWN GOALS" OR TERRORISTS KILLED  
BY THEIR OWN BOMBS:

(A) KILLED BY REPUBLICANS: 58  
PROTESTANTS 19, POLICE 6, UDR 6, ARMY 5, PRISON OFFICERS 2,  
OTHERS 4, ACCIDENTS 16

(B) KILLED BY LOYALISTS: 44  
CATHOLICS 33, INTERNAL 7, ERRORS 4

(C) KILLED BY ARMY AND POLICE: 5  
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PAGE 02 BELFAS 00158 271346Z

PROVISIONALS 3, LOYALISTS 1, ACCIDENTS 1

3. IN PAST WEEK 22 PEOPLE CHARGED WITH SERIOUS OFFENSES INCLUDING TWO WITH MURDER, FOUR ATTEMPTED MURDER, SEVEN ARMS OFFENSIVES FOUR EXPLOSIVES OFFENSIVES. THERE ADDITIONAL THIRTY PEOPLE HELPING POLICE WITH INQUIRIES. DURING PAST WEEK SECURITY FORCES RECOVERED 15 WEAPONS AND 263 POUNDS OF EXPLOSIVES. THERE 8.9 TONS OF EXPLOSIVES RECOVERED SINCE JANUARY 1 COMPARED TO 9.9 TONS FOR WHOLE OF 1975.

4. WITH BACKGROUND ABOVE FIGURES CONGEN PUTS FOLLOWING ASSUMPTIONS: (A) PROVISIONAL IRA CAMPAIGN, WHILE STILL RESTRAINED IS DESIGNED MAXIMIZE CASUALTIES ON MEMBERS SECURITY FORCES WHILE PROTESTANT TERRORISTS ESPECIALLY WITH NO-WARNING BOMBS IN PUBS ARE FOLLOWING POLICY SECTARIAN REPRISALS (B) FEUDS ARE CONTINUING BUT AT DIMINISHED RATE. (C) MORE CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION IS COMING TO SECURITY FORCES THAN PREVIOUSLY. SINCE COVERT ARMY INTELLIGENCE-GATHERING OPERATIONS STILL HAVE NOT RECOVERED FROM "CEASE FIRE" LOW PROFILE, IT ASSUMED THIS INFORMATION COMING FROM PUBLIC. (D) SINCE ONLY ONE PROVISIONAL DEATH ABOVE ATTRIBUTABLE TO SPECIAL AIR SERVICE, MAIN ACHIEVEMENT THIS PRESENCE SOUTH ARMAGH HAS BEEN DETERRENT.

5. LOYALISTS ONLY PARTIALLY MOLLIFIED BY SUCCESS SECURITY FORCES IN ARRESTING AND TRYING TERRORISTS. ABOVE FIGURES DO NOT PORTRAY SUCCESS RATE OF PROVISIONAL BOMBINGS BUSINESS, RESIDENTIAL AND GOVERNMENT TARGETS WITH SEEMING IMPUNITY THROUGHOUT PROVINCE INCLUDING INSIDE SECURITY BARRIERS DOWNTOWN BELFAST. THERE NOW CONTROVERSY DEVELOPING OVER GOVERNMENT INTENTIONS TO AUGMENT CAPABILITIES OF ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY TO ENABLE EVENTUAL ARMY PHASE-DOWN. NO LOYALIST HAS YET BRANDED THIS AS "PULL OUT" BUT DOUBTS BEING EXPRESSED ABOUT PACE OF TRANSITION.

SPICER

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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